Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, February 14, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/

Asian Longhorned Beetle

New Jersey:
As of February 9, 2005, 1,199 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB infestation site; 457 infested host trees and 742 high risk exposed host trees. Crews continue to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret.

Program Officials with the USDA and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture meet last week to discuss the need to remove additional trees from the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB infestation site. Currently the program is removing approximately 4,000 trees; this number may double due to the additional satellite infestation in Rahway, N.J that was detected in November 2004. Due to the increased number of removals, a federal removal contract will be executed. On Wednesday, February 16, program officials with the USDA and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will meet with Rahway officials to provide information concerning the program's tree removal process being conducted in the Middlesex/Union infestation site.

On February 10, 2005, Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director, provided a program update report on the tree removal process being conducted in the Middlesex/Union infestation site, to Woodbridge's Mayor, Department of Public Works and Public Information Office. The report highlighted Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey removing a number of host trees under power lines adjacent to the New Jersey Turnpike within the quarantine area running between Linden and Woodbridge in support of the ALB Program.

DNA Study Results:
Two independent studies conducted by Cornell University and the General Administration of Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, on DNA samples collected from adult Asian longhorned beetles at the Carteret infestation site have determined the DNA to differ from samples collected from Asian longhorned beetles in New York City, Jersey City, Chicago and Toronto. The studies found the Carteret beetles, like the Toronto beetles, to have their own unique DNA make up. This finding suggests the Carteret infestation to be a separate introduction into the United States. The origin of the Carteret ALB is still being investigated.

Additionally, a study being conducted by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service scientists, to age the Carteret infestation, is currently estimating the infestation to be six years old. The study dates the infestation back to 1998, prior to the implementation of the Solid Wood Packing Material Rule.

Public Outreach:
The Newark *Star-Ledger* ran an update story in the Feb. 9, 2005 edition on the tree removal process being conducted in Middlesex/Union ALB Quarantine. The story highlighted the results of the DNA test, which determined the infestation to be a separate introduction and not the result of spreading from any other ALB infestation sites in North America. The story also mentioned the "outstanding cooperation" the program is receiving from homeowners who are losing trees.

New York:
Federal, State, and New York City ALB program officials met last week to review the program's 2004 accomplishments and to finalize plans for 2005 activities. Chemical control activities will remain at the same level as 2004 with about 52,000 trees targeted for treatment. Surveys will continue to delimit the infestation, plus concentrate within the core areas and the difficult access properties. Regulatory will concentrate activities with high risk establishments such as waste haulers and debris transfer stations. Public

outreach will concentrate within the targeted survey and treatment areas in order to maximize public support for the eradication efforts.

For the week of January 30 – February 5, 2005, a total of 3,008 trees were surveyed by program personnel, with one infested tree being found on February 2 in Brooklyn. To date, there have been four infested tree found, all located in the established quarantine areas of Brooklyn.

Phil Lewis from CPHST Otis MA will give a demonstration of the USDA approved Arborjet Vipor Pressurized Trunk Injection System to New York City Parks Officials and City Foresters on February 15. The program will be using this system operationally for the NY chemical treatments in 2005.

Illinois:
On Thursday, January 27, a meeting was held with ALB program officials to determine the process needed to de-regulate the satellite infestations around Bensenville and Park Ridge, and portions of the Chicago quarantine including Kilbourn Park, Loyola and the Ravenswood areas. In attendance were representatives from the USDA, Illinois Department of Agriculture, City of Chicago and Cook County Forest Preserve District. All of the areas meet the protocol for de-regulation, a minimum of two years of negative survey. All agencies were in agreement to proceed with de-regulation plans. Once approved and finalized, the ALB regulated area in Illinois will decrease from 35 square miles to about 9 square miles, which covers the Oz Park area of Chicago where infested trees were detected in 2003.

As of February 4, 2005, a total of 11,746 trees have been surveyed for the year with no infestations detected.
Contact: Christine Markham

Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Program

The APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program has submitted a Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that describes the effects of grasshopper treatments on 203 Threatened or Endangered Species in 17 Western States. The 948 page document provides a comprehensive and up-to-date scientific assessment of the effect grasshopper/Mormon cricket suppression programs could have on each of the 122 animal and 81 plant species near treatment areas. APHIS then proposes measures that will protect those Threatened or Endangered Species from an insecticide application to suppress grasshoppers or Mormon crickets.

This BA was prepared by PPQ Grasshopper Program personnel with assistance from the Environmental Services staff and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The BA took nearly 3 years to complete. It is expected that negotiations with Fish and Wildlife Service will take several months before a final concurrence is provided. The Grasshopper Program is also consulting with NOAA Fisheries on Threatened and Endangered Species that are under the jurisdiction of that agency.
Contact: Charlie Brown

Citrus Canker

The incident command team recently assigned to augment citrus canker eradication program activities in the Indian River area of Florida in now in place. The team consists of 53 people, all of whom have now been trained in citrus canker survey methods. The ICS team had been divided into 6 crews, all of which are currently working in St. Lucie and Indian River Counties, which appear to be the most heavily affected areas. The crews have finished surveys needed to certify fruit for export to EU countries, and are now doing delimiting surveys in the 5 mile areas around recent finds, and surveys of groves that are associated with groves recently found to be infested. Additional infested groves have been found in the vicinity of a group of groves in the Northern part of St. Lucie County that had recently found to be infested with citrus canker. In addition, one grove about 5 miles south of this infested area was also found to contain citrus canker. There have also been detections of citrus canker in a residential area in the southern part of Brevard County (Brevard County is the county adjacent to Indian River County on the north. The

infestation in Brevard County was found as a result of surveys conducted by the APHIS sentinel tree survey program.
Contact: Stephen Poe